
13th JANUARY, 1803.

Read the first and second time, and ordered to be committed to a Committee of the whole House on Monday next.

A B I L L

For incorporating an Insurance Company in the City of Washington.

1 **Be it enacted**, by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,
3 That books be opened in the city of Washington, by Tristram
4 Dalton, Walter Chandler, William Simmons, Thomas Munroe,
5 John Davidson, David Peter, William Brent, and Jeremiah
6 Williams, or any three of them, after giving ten days notice in
7 the National Intelligencer and Washington Federalist, for the pur-
8 pose of receiving subscriptions of shares in a company, to be
9 styled, the Columbia General Insurance Company.

1 **SECT. 2.** *And be it enacted*, That any persons, citizens or
2 foreigners, companies or bodies corporate or politic, may subscribe

3 any sum of money not exceeding three hundred thousand dollars,
 4 in shares of one hundred dollars each, on paying to the persons
 5 receiving the subscriptions two dollars in part payment for each
 6 share subscribed. And the subscribers, and owners of shares by
 7 transfer, or otherwise, shall be, and are hereby created and made
 8 a corporation and body politic, by the name and style of the Co-
 9 lumbia General Insurance Company, and by the same name and
 10 style shall have perpetual succession, and be able to sue and be
 11 sued, implead and be impleaded in any court of law or equity in
 12 the United States, and to make a common seal, and the same to
 13 change or alter as often as they shall think fit, and to ordain and
 14 establish such regulations and bye-laws as they shall find necessary
 15 for governing their concerns, not repugnant to this act, or the laws
 16 of the United States.

1 SECT. 3. *And be it enacted*, That one-sixth part of the stock
 2 subscribed, shall be paid in money or notes as hereafter provided ;
 3 the remaining five-sixths may be paid in Washington city lots, at
 4 a fair and just value, to be ascertained by Tristram Dalton, late a
 5 commissioner of the said city, Thomas Munroe, the present super-
 6 intendant, and Nicholas King, late surveyor, or a majority of
 7 them, but no lot shall be valued at more than ten cents per square
 8 foot.

1 SECT. 4. *And be it enacted*, That each subscriber who shall pay
 2 any part of his subscription in lots, shall be held responsible to the
 3 company, that the same shall produce to the company the full

4 sum for which they were received ; and for the greater safety of
 5 the institution, shall give bond with security approved by them, to
 6 the president and directors, in the amount of one half the sum for
 7 which his lots shall be received ; or the security may be given in
 8 stock created under the authority of the United States, or some in-
 9 dividual state, or on mortgage of real estate, to pay any deficiency
 10 that may arise in each year when the same may be sold, as herein
 11 after provided, on the sales of lots received from such subscriber ;
 12 and the security so given may be changed from time to time with
 13 the consent of the president and directors to suit the convenience
 14 of the subscribers, and in cases where the security is personal, and
 15 in the event of such security becoming at any time hereafter insuf-
 16 ficient in their opinion, then the said president and directors shall
 17 and they are hereby authorized and directed to require, from time
 18 to time, as they shall see cause, additional or other security to their
 19 satisfaction ; and should any subscriber refuse to give such addi-
 20 tional, or other security as aforesaid, all the lots received from
 21 him may be immediately sold, and should any deficiency arise from
 22 such sale, the said subscriber and his securities shall be proceeded
 23 against without delay, in the manner hereafter provided, for the
 24 recovery of said deficiency.

1 SECT. 5. *And be it enacted*, That to insure the speedy and
 2 punctual payment of deficiency, the president and directors may
 3 in case payment for any deficiency that may arise from the sale of
 4 lots, as either herein before or herein after provided, shall not be

5 made within thirty days after the same shall be demanded, send to
 6 the clerk of the county in which the subscriber or any of his securi-
 7 ties reside, or did reside at the time the security was given, proof
 8 that demand had been made for payment of the deficiency as afore-
 9 said, and that the same had been neglected to be complied with, and
 10 may direct the said clerk to issue *capias ad satisfaciendum, fieri fa-*
 11 *cias*, or attachment by way of execution, on which the debt and
 12 cost may be levied, by committing the person or selling the pro-
 13 perty of the defendant for the sum of money demanded for defi-
 14 ciency as aforesaid; and the clerks of the county courts are hereby
 15 required to issue such execution or executions, which shall be re-
 16 turnable to the court whose clerk shall issue the same, which shall
 17 first set after issuing thereof, and shall be as valid and effectual in
 18 law to all intents and purposes, as if the same had issued on judg-
 19 ment regularly obtained in the ordinary course of proceeding in
 20 the said court, and shall not be stayed or delayed by any super-
 21 ceders' writ of error, appeal, or injunction from chancery.

1 **SECT. 6.** *And be it enacted,* That the president and directors
 2 shall cause to be kept, accurate accounts of the lots received for
 3 stock, and the sales thereof, which shall at all times be open to the
 4 inspection of the subscribers, and as soon as it shall happen that the
 5 lots paid by any subscriber, shall have produced the sum for which
 6 they were received, such subscriber shall thenceforth be exonera-
 7 ted from all responsibility on account of the sale of lots.

1 SECT. 7 *And be it enacted*, That a proportion of not less than
 2 one-twentieth nor greater than one-fifth part of the lots which
 3 shall be received in payment of stock, shall be annually sold, or
 4 leased on ground rent for ninety-nine years, renewable for ever,
 5 with or without condition for redemption, until the whole be
 6 disposed of: so much of the money arising from sales as shall
 7 be equal to the sum for which the property so sold was taken
 8 by the company, shall be considered and employed as stock,
 9 the residue shall be divided in the year in which the sale shall
 10 be made, in like manner with all other profits: in the case of
 11 property leased, the property itself will represent as much stock,
 12 as the cost of it, the nett annual income only shall be considered
 13 profit, but if it should so happen that the losses of the company
 14 amount at any time to more than the sum in hand from premiums,
 15 interest, and all other profit, and if the profits arising from the sales
 16 of lots hereby authorized in any one year, will not make up the
 17 deficiency, in such event the board of directors may cause as many
 18 additional lots to be sold as they shall judge necessary.

1 SECT. 8. *And be it enacted*, That as soon as fifteen hundred
 2 shares shall be subscribed, the persons appointed to receive sub-
 3 scriptions shall call a meeting of the subscribers to be held in the
 4 city of Washington, giving in the newspapers aforesaid at least
 5 twenty days notice of such meeting, and the subscribers shall
 6 elect by ballot by a plurality of votes of the stockholders present,
 7 or by proxy, each stockholder to have as many votes as shares, as

8 far as twenty shares, and one vote for every two shares thereafter,
 9 thirteen directors, who must be stockholders, to manage the affairs
 10 of the company until the last Monday in February, in one thousand
 11 eight hundred and four, and on the same day in every year there-
 12 after, a like election shall be held in the city of Washington for
 13 the same number of directors, to serve for one year, and the direc-
 14 tors so chosen, at their first meeting after each election shall choose
 15 one of their own number to be president, and in case of the death,
 16 resignation or disqualification of a president or a director, the board
 17 of directors for the time being shall fill up such vacancy for the
 18 remainder of the year.

1 SECT. 9 *And be it enacted*, That a committee of any three of the
 2 persons hereby authorized to receive subscriptions, be appointed by
 3 them to superintend the first election of directors ; and a commit-
 4 tee of three of the stockholders, who shall not at the time be direc-
 5 tors, shall be appointed by the board of directors to superintend
 6 every succeeding election.

1 SECT. 10. *And be it enacted*, That the president and directors
 2 thus chosen, shall receive from the persons appointed to receive
 3 subscriptions, the money received by them, and the book of sub-
 4 scription, and shall cause to be entered in a good and sufficient
 5 book, in folio, the names of all the members of the corporation,
 6 with the number of shares thereto respectively annexed ; and in
 7 the same book, they shall cause to be entered all the transfers that
 8 shall from time to time be made of any shares, which shall be

9 transferrable at the office of the company in person, or by power
 10 of attorney, authenticated in the manner prescribed for powers to
 11 transfer stock of the United States; and the president shall issue
 12 certificates with the seal of the corporation, to the stockholders
 13 for the number of shares held by each, or to each stockholder for
 14 any smaller number, but no transfer shall be made of the shares
 15 for which certificates shall have been issued, unless the certificates
 16 themselves be returned and cancelled, nor shall certificates be
 17 issued, nor any transfer be made until the security herein before
 18 required shall be given, and until full payment in money, or lots,
 19 or houses, shall be made on the shares for which such transfer or
 20 certificate may be required.

1 SECT. 11. *And be it enacted*, That the said president and direc-
 2 tors shall require from the several subscribers, payment for their
 3 shares in money or notes endorsed to their satisfaction, payable one
 4 half in sixty, one half in one hundred and twenty days, or in good
 5 and sufficient conveyances in fee simple, with general warrantee
 6 of lots, as the case may require; the conveyances of lots to be made
 7 to the president for the time being, and his successors in office for
 8 ever. And it shall be the duty of the president and directors to
 9 take care that the titles to the lots are good and valid in law, and
 10 without incumbrance. And if any subscriber shall refuse, or delay
 11 to make such payment and to give the security herein before re-
 12 quired, for the space of ten days after thereto required, his name

13 shall be erased from the list of stockholders, and the money paid
 14 by him at the time of subscribing shall be forfeited to the com-
 15 pany.

1 SECT. 12. *And be it enacted,* That if at the time of receiving
 2 the subscription book into their possession, the president and direc-
 3 tors shall find that the whole number of shares have not been sub-
 4 scribed, the book shall be kept open under their direction until the
 5 whole stock shall be subscribed, and payment in all cases of sub-
 6 scription after the directors shall be chosen, shall be made in money
 7 or in notes as aforesaid, or in lots, at the time of subscribing, and
 8 in all such cases, the directors, if they shall be of opinion that the
 9 lots so offered are over-rated, may reject the subscription, unless
 10 the person offering to subscribe shall agree to receive such value for
 11 them, as they in their consciences shall think reasonable and just.

1 SECT. 13. *And be it enacted,* That the said president and direc-
 2 tors shall have power and authority to make insurances, against
 3 fire on houses, to make insurances on vessels and their cargoes, on
 4 freights, on any goods, wares, merchandize, or other personal
 5 property going by land or by water; and to lend money on bot-
 6 tomry, or respondentia, and to purchase, hold and sell stock of any
 7 kind, created under the authority of the United States, or any par-
 8 ticular state; and generally to employ the funds of the company
 9 to the best advantage, and to transact and perform all the business
 10 relative to the objects aforesaid; and may appoint from time to

11 time, such officers, clerks and servants under them as they shall
 12 find necessary, and allow such salaries as they shall judge reasona-
 13 ble to the president and to the said officers.

1 SECT. 14. *And be it enacted*, That the said president and direc-
 2 tors shall from time to time, apply all sums received from pre-
 3 miums of insurance, interest, profits on stock, profits arising from
 4 sales of lots, and all other profits, to the payment of their losses,
 5 and to making up the original capital when impaired by losses, and
 6 after making up any diminution of capital and paying the expenses
 7 of the institution, shall make dividend of the residue among the
 8 stockholders, in the first instance on the Thursday next preceding
 9 the last Monday in February, one thousand eight hundred and
 10 four, and ever after half yearly dividends on the last Thursday in
 11 August, and the Thursday preceding the last Thursday in
 12 February.

1 SECT. 15. *And be it enacted*, That the president and a num-
 2 ber not less than nine directors shall form a board competent to
 3 make bye-laws and rules and regulations for the management of
 4 the concerns of the company, and to determine the security to be
 5 taken from the stockholders who pay lots, and the manner and time
 6 of selling or leasing the lots and houses belonging to the corpora-
 7 tion, and may transfer the power of transacting all other business
 8 of the corporation to such committees of the directors with the
 9 president as may from time to time be agreed on; and nine direc-

10 tors may appoint a president pro. tem. in case the sickness of the
 11 president, necessary absence, or inability to attend from any other
 12 cause, to the duties of his office, should render such appointment
 13 necessary, but no director shall receive any compensation for his
 14 services, as a director.

1 SECT. 16. *And be it enacted,* That the president and directors
 2 shall keep full, fair and correct entries of all their proceedings,
 3 which shall at all times be open to the inspection of the stock-
 4 holders.

1 SECT. 17. *And be it enacted,* That the said company, shall not
 2 be competent to purchase, take or hold any real estate other than
 3 such as may be received in payment of stock, and such as may be
 4 necessary for their accommodation in business in the city of Wash-
 5 ington, and stock in the Potomac company, but may receive and
 6 hold mortgages and other securities on real property to secure
 7 their capital stock, and for debts which may be due to the in-
 8 stitution.

1 SECT. 18. *And be it enacted,* That there shall be no insurances
 2 done by the said company, until the directors have in their power
 3 active capital, consisting of money, well secured notes as afore-
 4 said, or stock as aforesaid, to the amount of at least thirty thousand
 5 dollars.

1 SECT. 19. *And be it enacted,* That no president or director of
 2 any other insurance company, shall be eligible to the office of
 3 president or director in this company.

1 SECT. 20. *And be it enacted,* That the stockholders or members
2 of the company, shall not be liable for any loss, damage, or ref-
3 ponsibility in their persons or property, other than the property
4 they have in the capital and funds of the company, to the amount
5 of shares respectively held by them, and any profits arising there-
6 from not divided.